

Spotlight – Amanda Shaw KK7TOF



Amanda Shaw KK7TOF is a new member of UARC, having joined just as I was interviewing her. She's been exposed to amateur radio all of her life. Her father George Hughes N7BMG has his Extra Class license and is very active. He wanted all of his children to get their amateur radio licenses, and insisted that they get their ham licenses before they got their drivers licenses. Amanda's parents unfortunately divorced when she was 16, and her mother didn't enforce on the same rule, so Amanda was able to dodge that bullet. She also had other interests at that time, but the reason Amanda eventually wanted to get her amateur radio license is because her father now lives in Kentucky and she wants to talk with him via ham radio.

Last year Amanda took a Technician Course from James Bennett KK7AVS. At the end of the class in May Amanda wanted to take the test, but she couldn't find an in-person exam session available at the time. So, she took the test remotely. The people who were giving her the test were in Washington state, where Stephen Hutchings WM7X administered the exam to her while 3 other hams were watching as VEs (volunteer examiners). They had to see the room she was in to make sure she was the only one in there.

Amanda took her test in the restroom, because it is the smallest room in the house, it was quiet, and there were no interruptions. The questions were shown on the screen, then she clicked the answer that she thought was correct. Amanda was so happy she passed the test. She's now working hard on getting her General Class license so she can talk to her dad over the radio. She wanted to take James' General Course On Tuesday nights, but she has commitments with the Young Women in her church. I told her that she could talk with her dad right now on EchoLink, and she got excited about that.

Amanda bought a Baofeng radio and enjoys talking on it. Her Stake President wants member to get involved with radio communication for emergencies. Amanda really wants to get involved with emergency communication using amateur radio, but says there is still so much to learn.

Amanda and her husband Jeff have three children, two girls and a boy. She's the one and only licensed family member. The others aren't interested but supportive. Amanda also has a part-time job at [This Is the Place Monument](#). These things keep Amanda busy but she's going to do her best to get more active in amateur radio.

Amanda enjoys hiking and would like to get more involved in birding. *Amanda, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors. Good luck on getting that General Class amateur radio class license!*

73, Linda Reeder N7HVF